

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. POTENTIAL Brandis Airfield

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 

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DATE OF CONTENT 

DATE OBTAINED

26 January 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The following observations were made at Brandis airfield between 13 December 1953 and 3 January 1954:
- 13 December. There was no air activity. Visibility was limited to about 2 km.
  - 14 December. No air activity was observed although visibility was good.
  - 15 December. Between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., 8 Po-2s and 11 Il-10s conducted local flying with good flight discipline; the flights were apparently made by well trained crews. The weather was good. During the course of the day, MiG-15s repeatedly crossed over the field. Some of the aircraft towed air sleeves at an altitude of about 1,000 meters, while AA guns at the field fired at the targets. Three bursts and puffs of smoke were observed at a time.
  - 16 December. There was no air activity although the weather was good.
  - 17 December. At 9 a.m., two Po-2s circled over the field. Visibility was limited to 1 or 2 km. Throughout the day, there was intensive air activity by MiG-15s which crossed over the field.
  - 18 December. Between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., local flying was practiced by two Po-2s. MiG-15s again crossed over the field heading north. Only two Po-2s were observed on the landing field. The hangars were closed. Source believed that about 33 Il-10s and 8 Po-2s, which were probably also stationed at the field, were parked in the hangars.
  - 19 December. No air activity was observed although visibility was good.
  - 20 December. No flights were made. There was a snow storm.
  - 21 to 25 December. No air activity was conducted although the weather mostly was favorable.
  - 26 December. At 10 a.m., two MiG-15s crossed over the field flying toward the northeast. No additional air activity was observed.
  - 28 December. At 9:30 a.m., a Li-2 landed at the field, while visibility was good. The aircraft again took off at 6:15 p.m.
  - 29 December. The alert signals sounded at 10 a.m. There was no air activity. Visibility was limited to 1 km and it snowed.
  - 30 December 1953 to 3 January 1954. No air activity was observed. On 31 December, the engines of Il-10s were started for a short period. This was the only activity on this date.
2. Between 13 and 18 December, crates, each about 60 x 50 x 40 cm, probably bombs or ammunition, were unloaded near the shrapnelproof aircraft revetments.<sup>2</sup> At the end of December, 10 to 15 soldiers, wearing black-bordered red epaulets, were seen excavating a zig-zag communication trench at the western end of the runway, outside of the landing field. Trucks  were observed entering and leaving the field. In mid-December, 21 German families had to vacate their dwellings in Altenhain.<sup>3</sup>

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- 25X1A 1. ☐ Comment. Brandis airfield is still occupied by a ground attack regiment with 35 to 40 Il-10s and about 8 Po-2s. The AA battery with 37-mm guns which fired at the airborne targets was located in the northeastern section of the airfield.
- 25X1A 2. ☐ Comment. The crates probably contained aircraft ammunition.
- 25X1A 3. ☐ Comment. This information confirms previous rumors, according to which German dwellings had to be vacated. Probably Soviet officers dependents were to be quartered there. Altenhain is 7.5 km southeast of Brandis.

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